

CAPTURE OF HILL 304 WRECKS GERMAN HOPES

Teuton Grip on Verdun Gone by Fall of Key Position to French City—Italians Take 20,000 Prisoners.

(By International News Service.)
London, Aug. 24.—“Hill 304 is again in French hands” was the message from the Verdun front that thrilled the heart of France today. Not since the battle of the Marne has more joyous news come to the people of the republic, for the recapture by Petain's poilus of this blood-soaked height, twin of “Dead Man's Hill,” means the complete disentanglement of Verdun from the Teuton grip.

SMASH TEUTON DREAM.

For a year and a half the crown prince's veterans had been “squatting” complacently in their hidden concrete corridors on this hill, snugly looking down on the battered citadel that was their ultimate goal.

“As long as we have Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304,” was the ever-repeated assertion of German experts since the spring of last year, “our Verdun lines are safe, and sooner or later the fortress must fall to us.”

Mort Homme fell to the first French onrush Monday. Hill 304 was recaptured today. The Teuton dream of Verdun is over—it was a bubble of blood.

Good News From Rome.

New cheering news also came from Rome. Cadorna captured the town of Mort Homme, and 20,000 Austrian prisoners have been counted so far. Further progress has been made, though the Hapsburg troops are fighting back with the fury of madmen. The British did not fare so well in the last twenty-four hours. They were thrown back from the positions they had recently won in Flanders, south of the Ypres-Menin road, and according to Berlin, lost twenty-one “tanks” which now lie, crumpled heaps in front of the German lines. Berlin also claims retention of all the lines attacked by the Canadian.

This is disputed by the British in office which says the Dominion troops held German trenches immediately northwest of what was once Green Crassier, but now is called “Red” at the front.

The Rumanians rallied after a reverse in the direction of Buzau. They had lost a village to the Teutons, but promptly recaptured and held it against their best effort of Teuton attacks.

Big Hun Campaign.

Petrograd, Aug. 24.—The German general staff is preparing for important operations on the Riga front. The capture of the city of Riga, information to this effect has been obtained from Alsatian deserters and Russian prisoners who have escaped from that front. They report that a tremendous concentration of heavy artillery, ammunition and supplies in the region of Mitau, the great German base, 5 miles to the southwest of Riga, is being hurriedly moved to the front. The German staff is believed to be holding the Teuton lines in the semi-circle threatening the big Russian Baltic port, have been replaced by first line German troops.

French Officers Opinion.

The contemplated German drive on Riga has been holding the Russian army, which has been ordered to meet the expected German offensive, in a position of extreme peril. Col. Clerget (of the French army, attached to the Russian general staff) writing in the Army and Navy Journal, declared that it probably would operate to temporarily cut down the number of inflicting uniforms, but that eventually it would increase the output.

The government cannot permit its work to be done under sweat-shop conditions. It is the outstanding phrase of the statement, which says: “Secretary Baker announces the establishment of a board of control for labor standards in army clothing under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis K. Irwin. The other members are Mrs. Florence Kelley and Capt. Walter E. Kruesi, Q. M. C. U. S. R. Through this board the quartermaster general will be enabled to enforce the maintenance of sound industrial and sanitary conditions in the manufacture of army clothing, to inspect factories, to carry out government standards, to pass upon the industrial standards maintained by bidders in army clothing and act so that just conditions prevail.”

Cannot Allow Evils.

“The government cannot permit its work to be done under sweat-shop conditions and it cannot allow the evils of the present to go uncorrected.”

“Only through the establishment of such a body as the board of control now created will the government be able to enforce the maintenance of sound industrial and sanitary conditions in the manufacture of army clothing, to inspect factories, to carry out government standards, to pass upon the industrial standards maintained by bidders in army clothing and act so that just conditions prevail.”

Against Draft, Is Killed.

York, S. C., Aug. 24.—W. T. Sims, a colored preacher, died yesterday from injuries received in a riot in which a mob composed of whites and negroes, who were said to have been enraged at utterances opposing the draft law attributed to him.

What Is Your Boy Doing?

Has he anything to keep him in pocket money? Anything to keep him interestingly employed?

The Washington Herald Needs Boys to Deliver Papers

on routes. This does not mean selling papers. It means delivering papers to the homes to regular subscribers in your boy's own neighborhood. The boys are paid a regular salary for this work which requires but a couple of hours in the morning.

Some of Washington's biggest men laid the foundation of their business knowledge and fortune by delivering newspapers. Your boy should be gainfully occupied during the school vacation.

Phone, write or see G. E. Maher, The Washington Herald office.

NOT MUSEUM COAT RETAILERS

Price Fixing to Save Money for Householders Too, Says Garfield.

Coal prices for the consumer will be radically reduced before September 1, it was learned yesterday from Dr. H. A. Garfield, the President's coal administrator. Dr. Garfield said it is plain that no inflated prices would be allowed, and the mines or dealers attempting it would find their properties taken over by the Federal Government.

No Escape For Retailers.

Dr. Garfield also authorized this statement: “The fixing of coal prices must go all the way down the line. If any one thinks that as the coal administrator I will be satisfied with reductions to the miners and jobbers, he is grossly mistaken. There will be a saving, and a considerable saving, to the householder.”

In view of the reports made by special investigators in New York and Brooklyn, and the revelations brought out in the probe here, it is expected that an entire readjustment of prices will be made within the next week.

Another point brought out by Dr. Garfield was that all contracts will be subjected to the closest scrutiny and no one will be allowed to raise prices unless it can be proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that they were made prior to the President's announcement of prices and were not made in violation of the law.

Keep Retail Prices Down.

A system of checks and balances will be worked out as soon as possible by which retail prices will be kept down. It is anticipated that a large number of small dealers will be forced out of business by the prices named by the government, but it is believed that the best interests of the body politic will be served by having prices in what was formerly the comparatively large dealers.

President Wilson is said to be thoroughly aroused by the evidences of profiteering he found here, in New York and other cities, and has given explicit instructions to protect the public.

Eliminate Sweatshops.

This shortage of uniforms was further temporarily enhanced yesterday by an order of Secretary Baker eliminating all sweatshop manufacture of army clothing.

The order was issued as the result of representations made by officials of the American Federation of Labor. The situation has been serious in labor circles for several weeks, especially in New York and Chicago, where, it was alleged, contractors were subletting contracts for army uniforms to non-union laborers employing women and children in unsanitary sweatshops.

Will Increase Output.

Secretary Baker in issuing his order and appointing a committee to see that the order is carried out, declared that it probably would operate to temporarily cut down the number of inflicting uniforms, but that eventually it would increase the output.

The government cannot permit its work to be done under sweat-shop conditions. It is the outstanding phrase of the statement, which says: “Secretary Baker announces the establishment of a board of control for labor standards in army clothing under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis K. Irwin. The other members are Mrs. Florence Kelley and Capt. Walter E. Kruesi, Q. M. C. U. S. R. Through this board the quartermaster general will be enabled to enforce the maintenance of sound industrial and sanitary conditions in the manufacture of army clothing, to inspect factories, to carry out government standards, to pass upon the industrial standards maintained by bidders in army clothing and act so that just conditions prevail.”

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District Saloon Keeper Sells Beer to Soldiers As Police Stand Nearby

Enlisted Men Join Throng of Women Revelers in Dive on Four-and-a-half Street. Use Bread Box Warnings.

With laws and morals thrown into the discard, openly violating anti-booze and military laws, running wide open under the evident protection of the city police, a saloon on Four-and-a-half street is every night rivaling anything that the “red light” district of the old Washington could ever show.

In this place, crowded to the battered swinging doors with a motley throng of negroes and whites, sailors and soldiers, negro and white women, some gaudy in their cheap finery, others all too plainly down and out, drinks are being sold openly to soldiers, while “backroom” parties are nightly occurrences.

Five tables, each seating four or five drink-marked men or women, and a great long bar, do a roaring free-for-all business in barreled beer and “rot-gut” whisky, with “temperance” served sometimes for the “ladies” who won't take anything “strong.”

Young Girls in Crowd.

Picking up girls scarcely in their teens, whites and negroes alike, young “bloodes” and sailors and soldiers “whoop it up” as if the saloon was the most part of the Barbary Coast in San Francisco. Back of the dive are “private rooms,” it is said, and trips to these are frequent.

Here, away from the hard-drinking, jostling mass that packs the front room of the saloon, there is no law. Without making the trip to the rear, which only the initiated are allowed to take, a chance visitor to the saloon can see enough in the barroom of the dive to realize that the “red light” element is still alive and struggling for its former place in the night life of the city.

At one end of the big room, at the table nearest the big swing doors, sits a bedraggled white woman. All too plainly she shows that she has seen the best and worst that the world can give. Haggard and bleary eyed, she waits hour after hour for a drinker, kinder hearted than the rest of the booze-soaked crowd, to toss her a coin to buy a “jolt” of the stuff that means life to her. Near her sits the opposite extreme, a young negro, scarcely 15 years old, eager to know the joys of “life” as the “jolt” shows them to her.

Soldiers Buy Drinks.

All along the bar, and filling the tables, the crowd is dotted with enlisted men, who have entered under the apparent protection of the national guard, and who are being served intoxicating drinks by the proprietor of the saloon and his bartenders.

For two nights Herald reporters have watched the dive. Last night, watching for an hour a Herald reporter saw four white soldiers, two seen the best and worst that the world

stand trial, and his case was postponed until Monday.

Back to the district cell he was sent, there to await trial. By this time, however, Navy Department officials had locked into the man's case, and having found that he was honorably discharged after eighteen years of service, action came quickly.

On an order from Lieut. Commander Koch, brought by a special messenger from the Navy Department, the police were commanded to release the man unconditionally.

Accompanying the release order came a new discharge slip, giving the man a new service uniform until November 19, 1917, four months after the date of his honorable discharge from the Naval Reserve Corps.

When interviewed last night the man told of his experiences in France, and in the French hospital after his wound while on service in French waters. He told how he was brought to the naval hospital at Norfolk, suffering intensely with a broken right thigh, and how he was remembered to his release from the hospital with an honorable discharge and with a claim for a pension, and of his wait in Washington for the first month's share of the government money.

And then of his arrest for wearing the uniform that he had given his life's blood and eighteen years of his existence to earn. His eyes grew dark as he remembered the harsh treatment he had received, and then they brightened, as from the very bottom of his heart he thanked The Herald for its share in freeing him from the police.

MEAT PRICES DROP AS HOOVER TAKES TRAIN

Boosting of Prices Believed to Be Greatest War Seal.

“Drastic cuts in meat prices are expected to follow conferences held yesterday in Chicago by Food Administrator Hoover, investigators of the Federal Trade Commission and representatives of the packers.”

The facts discovered by the Trade Commission experts, have given rise to the belief that the inflation of meat prices is one of the greatest war seals perpetrated on the public.

Chicago, Aug. 24.—Coinciding with the beginning here today of Federal investigation of the high price of meats, hog values took a tumble to \$15.

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TEXANS REBEL NEGRO RIOTERS

Do Not Intend to Allow Soldiers to Escape Punishment.

(By the International News Service.)
Houston, Tex., Aug. 24.—The State of Texas does not intend to allow the negro rioters to escape punishment by civil authorities. John Crocker, district attorney, tonight filed thirty-four charges of murder against the Twenty-fourth Infantry, which is stationed here. They are accused of being responsible for the murder of seventeen persons, four of them policemen.

The other prisoners are in the hands of the military authorities and Mr. Crocker announced that he will probably bring proceedings to have them turned over to the civil authorities as charged with murder cases, within his jurisdiction.

Orders Removal.

It was announced tonight that Gen. Parker, in command of the Southern department, has issued orders for the removal of the battalion of the Twenty-fourth Infantry stationed here and the battalion at Waco to Columbus, N. Mex.

Quick trial for the negro soldiers is planned by the government.

Major Gen. George Bell, Jr., commander of Camp Logan, will arrive tomorrow morning to appoint the thirteen members of the court-martial before whom the negro mutineers and murderers will be tried.

Major B. M. Chipmire, of the Judge Advocate's department, will arrive tomorrow or Sunday. He has been ordered to drop back to the selection of Chicago men for the national army and to report to Gen. Bell as speedily as possible.

At a mass meeting of citizens of Houston, this evening a resolution was adopted protesting against the removal of the colored soldiers until after the court-martial has been held.

Hunt Mutineers.

The men hunt for the thirty scattered soldiers still at large is being driven forward with unrelenting vigor by Sheriff Frank Hammond and Chief of Police Clarence Brock.

All day automobiles fluted the streets, and police officers with drivers beside them and scores of armed deputies ready. There was constant shouting, the roar of motors and the scream of sirens as auto after auto loaded with armed men sped away from the police station to investigate constantly arriving reports of the presence of suspected mutineers.

Not a man was seen, however, the men of Companies E and H, Second Infantry, worked all day with the searching parties. Other Chicago troops were on duty around Camp Logan and the negro regiment's camp.

Will Change Program.

The soldier race riots in Houston possibly will result in an entire change of the War Department's program of sending Northern negro soldiers to the South for training camps.

Secretary of War Baker last night said no change in program had been made; that under present plans the movement would be made to southern camps, but that he was in communication with the War Department and the representatives in Congress, together with the outbreak in Texas, are expected to have some result.

Secretary Baker held a lengthy conference with Maj. Gen. Hugh H. Scott, chief of staff, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Baker, following the conference, flatly refused to say what would be done with the negro recruits, brought in under the draft. The plan has been to quarter them among their own officers at the same cantonments as white troops.

Secretary Baker was quoted by Senator Sheppard, of Texas, head of a delegation which went to the War Department with telegraphed resolutions of the Texas legislature requesting the removal of negro troops from that State, as saying that the black forces would be removed to the South. Later he denied that he had gone so far. The matter, he said, would be taken under advisement.

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NO SEPARATE PEACE, RUSSIA ASSURES U. S.

Optimistic Feeling Among Officials Replaces Gloom Over Situation, Following Report from Ambassador at Petrograd.

The veil of baleful mystery about the Russian situation has lifted a little.

Word from Ambassador Francis has encouraged the State Department on the success of the provisional government and a further loan of \$100,000,000 has been made through the new Ambassador, Boris Bahkmeteff.

Secretary Lansing made a clean-cut and very optimistic statement of the whole situation.

PLEDGES NO SEPARATE PEACE.

The State Department yesterday made public a letter sent to the Russian Ambassador ten days ago, in which President Wilson acknowledges the receipt of the pledge of the Russian government that it will make no separate peace, but will pursue the war to the end.

Railroad May Save Russia.

The completion of the Russian railway line to Koll on the Arctic Sea may be the fact that will save Russia to the entire forces during the coming winter. The railroad means that Russia can be supplied freely despite the closing by ice of the Port of Archangel.

While no authoritative revelations of the military situation have arrived here from the State Department, the position of the Russian armies is at least no worse than it has been.

The great difficulty with the Russian armies is once more a shortage of munitions. He commended the shipping board and the opening of the Koll railroad line will, it is expected, meet this difficulty in time.

Doubt As To Conference.

These are the outstanding facts of the situation as revealed last night: There still remains the great doubt as to the outcome of the Moscow conference. This summoning of the newly freed people under the hand of Kerensky may prove his Frankenstein monster and the United States and the allies will not feel easy until authoritative news has been received that the young dictator has the Moscow meeting well under control.

The receipt of a dispatch from Ambassador Francis, as learned this afternoon, is the only message which has come from Russia in many hours. Yet it created a striking change in the attitude of Secretary Lansing and the State Department here for the account of the provisional government.

Faith in Francis.

It is not believed that Mr. Francis would have sent such a message were he not convinced of the ultimate success of the new republic. The message directly heartened all Washington.

Furthermore, it cleared up a technical detail which has been the cause of much confusion among Secretaries McAdoo, Baker and Lansing during the last twenty-four hours. It identified a new Ambassador to the paying order of the United States.

His receipt was promptly followed by the placing of a further credit of \$100,000,000 to Russia's account. This will facilitate the shipments to Archangel for which the Shipping Board will provide three ships immediately. The demand has made itself felt in Congress. The Capitol yesterday was filled with talk of the possibility of the President coming before the Congress at an early date with a re-statement of the United States aims which would at the same time embody his reply to Pope Benedict.

Yet the President has so far rigorously refrained from indicating that the note is on his mind. It was officially stated that peace was not discussed at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Peace Next Subject.

But the President is beginning to get “the feel” of the entanglements of industrial mobilization and price-fixing with which he has been deeply concerned for the last ten days. It is predicted that the peace note will be the next subject to which he will turn his mind.

It is believed that he will make this statement before the soldiers of the United States are sent to the battle line. It is not believed that he will permit that event to appear as the United States' answer to Pope Benedict.

It would undoubtedly be so regarded by many persons and many governments. It is an event that is not far off, according to the best judgment of the most recent dispatches from France.

To Accept Terms.

It was predicted here yesterday by close observers of international affairs and men familiar with the mind of the President, that his declaration on peace would be in the nature of a ultimatum. It is looked upon as the ultimatum that he will accept them all in the abstract, and then insist that they be made concrete by the assent to them of the German people as distinct from the German government.

Such a reply would leave the United States and the entire free world to carry on the war against “The Imperial German Government” as all the state documents call it. It would at the same time leave the way open for the discussion in Germany of means to grant satisfactorily the demands of the United States.

As has been said, the State Department has indisputable evidence that the heaven of democracy has not ceased to work within the Teuton iron ring.

Told He Was Drafted, Drops Dead from Shock

New Brunswick, N. J., Aug. 24.—A friend rushed up to William Sneed, colored, in front of his home here and told him he had been called for the national army.

Sneed fell dead from heart failure, due to fright, according to the doctors. An investigation showed that Sneed's friend was mistaken or joking, as the dead man's number had not been posted.

SEEKING 1,500 SLACKERS.

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 24.—Nearly 1,500 Philadelphia men failed to respond to calls to report for examination for conscription are being sought by Federal agents in a “slacker round-up” under way here today.

MAIL PLAT, NOT ROLLED

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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VOID AFTER SEPTEMBER 7.